



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR

JOHN M. GENTRY  
County Mayor

6 East Madison Avenue  
Athens, Tennessee 37303  
www.mcminncountytn.gov

PHONE: 423.745.7634  
FAX: 423.744.1600

March 15, 2012

Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: CSX Transportation Abandonment of the Athens Branch in McMinn County, Tennessee,  
(STB Docket No. AB-55/Sub No. 694X)**

Dear Secretary:

I am writing on behalf of McMinn County, Tennessee to request another extension of the deadline for negotiations with CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT"), regarding the Notice of Interim Trail Use in the above captioned proceeding with respect to the 6.4 mile portion of the line ("the Athens Branch") that extends northwest from near Englewood to Athens. (between 0KW327.0 and 0KW333.4 including both spurs located after 0KW 332). Pursuant to the September 26, 2011 decision ("the Decision") of the Surface Transportation Board ("the Board"), an agreement for interim trail use/rail banking expires February 29, 2012 ("Negotiating Deadline").

The county and the Cities of Athens and Englewood have met recently and appointed a joint committee to agree on the purchase and maintenance of the proposed trail. We now expect to be able to continue negotiations.

The County respectfully requests an extension to February 29, 2013 (365 calendar days for the Negotiating Deadline). According to CSX rules, the buyers will be conducting environmental testing and perhaps, design engineering based on those findings. CSX Transportation has acknowledged that it concurs with this request and will file a letter of concurrence once it receives a copy of this letter.

In addition, the County respectfully requests a waiver of the Boards filing fees in accordance with 49 CFR 1002.2(e)(1).

Respectfully submitted,

  
John M Gentry  
McMinn County Mayor

cc: Bruce McMahon  
Elizabeth Steel

ENTERED  
Office of Public Works

Part of  
Public Record